

Message Text

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14

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCCT-01 EUR-12 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04

H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 /070 W

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R 131305Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4497

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, AR

SUBJECT: FURTHER TERRORIST DEPRECATIONS

1. ON MORNING OF FEBRUARY 11, 1976 THE COMMANDER OF THE MAR DEL PLATA ARMY GARRISON, COL. RAFAEL REYES, WAS SHOT AND KILLED IN A TERRORIST ATTACK. AT THE TIME THE ATTACK TOOK PLACE, REYES WAS LEAVING HIS HOME TO GO TO THE HEAD-QUARTERS OF THE 601ST UNIT WHICH HE COMMANDS. HE, ALONG WITH TWO CONSCRIPTS WHO ACT AS HIS CHAUFFEUR AND BODYGUARD, HAD GONE ONLY A SHORT DISTANCE FROM HIS HOME WHEN THEIR VEHICLE WAS INTERCEPTED AT A SPOTLIGHT BY AT LEAST TWO VEHICLES DRIVEN BY TERRORISTS. ACCORDING TO EYE-WITNESSES, THERE WERE SEVERAL PERSONS, INCLUDING AT LEAST ONE WOMAN, IN THE CARS WHO OPENED FIRE WITH MACHINE GUNS AND PISTOLS, KILLING REYES AND WOUNDING THE CONSCRIPTS. THE ATTACKERS WERE ABLE TO MAKE THEIR ESCAPE. LATE IN THE DAY LOCAL NEWSPAPERS WERE ADVISED THAT THE ATTACK HAD BEEN PERPETRATED BY THE "RED BRIGADES OF WORKERS POWER," A GROUP BELIEVED TO BE CLOSELY ASSOCIATED WITH OR PART OF THE ERP.

2. IN A SECOND AND PRESUMABLY UNRELATED ATTACK, SEVERAL MEN DROVE IN FRONT OF THE AUSTRIAN CHANCERY AT APPROXIMATELY 1:30 -A.M. ON FEBRUARY 12, FIRING SHOTS AT THE BUILDING. A GUARD IN FRONT OF THE CHANCERY RETURNED FIRE

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AND APPARENTLY DROVE OFF THE ATTACKERS. THERE WERE NO

INJURIES IN THE ATTACK AND NO GROUP HAS AS YET TAKEN
CREDIT FOR THIS ACTION.

3. COMMENT: COMMANDER REYES FORCES RECENTLY HAVE HAD SEVERAL
SUCCESES IN COUNTER-TERRORIST OPERATIONS WHICH MAY EXPLAIN
MOTIVE FOR ATTACK. HOWEVER, HIS DEATH MAY RAISE SUSPICIONS
IN MILITARY CIRCLES AS TO WHO THE REAL PERPETRATORS WERE
AS REYES HAD RECENTLY GOTTEN INTO SQUABBLE WITH CGT
BECAUSE HE HAD ORDERED THE ARREST OF A LABOR LEADER FOR
ATTEMPTING TO BOARD A COMMERCIAL AIRCRAFT WHILE HEAVILY
ARMED. THE ATTACK ON THE AUSTRIAN CHANCERY IS A COMPLETE
MYSTERY BOTH AS TO THE ORIGINS OF THE PERPETRATORS AND
THEIR MOTIVE FOR CARRYING OUT ATTACK. EMBASSY UNAWARE
OF ANY POLITICAL DISPUTE WHICH COULD EXPLAIN LAST NIGHT'S
INCIDENT.
HILL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MURDER, MILITARY PERSONNEL, TERRORISTS, UNCONVENTIONAL WARFARE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 13 FEB 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976BUENOS01000
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760056-0684
From: BUENOS AIRES
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760252/aaaabtjy.tel
Line Count: 77
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: morefirh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 07 JUL 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <07 JUL 2004 by KelleyW0>; APPROVED <07 JUL 2004 by morefirh>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FURTHER TERRORIST DEPRECATIONS
TAGS: PINS, AR, (REYES, RAFAEL)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006